

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary EQIP - SD Farmstead

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: EQIP - SD Farmstead		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:		Telephone:
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10 Point(s)
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10 Point(s)
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	10 Point(s)
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10 Point(s)

Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15 Point(s)
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10 Point(s)
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10 Point(s)
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10 Point(s)
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10 Point(s)
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10 Point(s)
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	10 Point(s)
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10 Point(s)
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?	10 Point(s)
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10 Point(s)
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	10 Point(s)

6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10 Point(s)
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10 Point(s)
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10 Point(s)
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Point(s)
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10 Point(s)
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10 Point(s)
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Point(s)
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10 Point(s)

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Are practices included in the application that will move animals 35 feet from surface water, wetlands, or other sensitive areas?	75 Point(s)
2. Does the application include all practices needed to complete the implementation of an existing CNMP? Do not answer yes to both State 2 and 3.	75 Point(s)

3. Does this application include one or more practices contributing to implementation an existing CNMP? Do not answer yes to both State 2 and 3.	50 Point(s)
4. Do at least 50% of the fields/pastures have a high P or N leaching index and the practices in the application address the nutrient management issue? Do NOT answer yes to both State 4 and 5.	75 Point(s)
5. Do at least 25% of the fields/pastures have a high P or N leaching index and the practices in the application address the nutrient management issue? Do NOT answer yes to both State 4 and 5.	50 Point(s)
6. Has a CNMP identified a manure/nutrient surplus and will practices that facilitate manure export off-farm (such as compost or other appropriate methods) be included in the application?	50 Point(s)
7. Does this application include a practice to treat silage leachate or milkhhouse waste?	50 Point(s)
8. Does this application include diversion or roof runoff practices and appropriate outlets to "keep clean water clean"?	75 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Does this application facilitate livestock exclusion from ALL sensitive areas (i.e., surface water and wetlands) with a 20 ft buffer and the applicant agrees to keep the livestock excluded at all times (except flash grazing as identified in an existing prescribed grazing plan)? Do NOT assign points if there are not environmentally sensitive areas or if livestock are not impacting these areas.	35 Point(s)
2. Is the majority of the area included in the application within a state listed impaired watershed and will the practices in the application address the impairment?	30 Point(s)
3. Will direct discharge of sediment/nutrients into surface waters be controlled by practices in this application?	30 Point(s)
4. Will 50% or more of the ag products (meat, fruit, veggies, eggs, maple, wood, dairy etc) produced be consumed or marketed within 100 miles of the farm?	25 Point(s)

5. Will practices in this application control non-native invasive species?	20 Point(s)
6. Does the application include forage and biomass planting (on pasture or hayland) and/or grazing land mechanical treatment to address resource concerns (overall rating of <25 -poor or very poor) identified on the NH Pasture Condition Score Sheet?	30 Point(s)
7. Does the application include at least one practice that offers soil quality benefits on cropland or grazing land?	25 Point(s)
8. Does the application include a legume cover crop on at least 50% of the cropland acres?	15 Point(s)
9. Does the application include at least one practice to benefit wildlife (delayed mowing/grazing, control of invasive species, pollinator plantings, snag creation)?	10 Point(s)
10. Does the application include practices to address one or more resource concerns identified in an existing Soil Health Assessment?	15 Point(s)
11. Does the application include Nutrient Management?	15 Point(s)

